

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully submitted.

Claims 1-87 are currently active in this case. Claims 1, 25, 49, and 73 having been amended by way of the present amendment. Each amended claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted, and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding official action, Claims 1-87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; Claim 1-16, 25-40, 49-64, and 73-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hansen (U.S. Patent 5,819,042), in view of *Windows NT 4*; and Claims 17-24, 41-48, 65-72, and 81-87 were identified as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 17-24, 41-48, 65-72, and 81-87.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-87 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, independent Claims 1, 25, 49, and 73 have been amended to correct any indefinite language in the original claims, thereby defining Applicant's invention in clear and concise terms under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The amended claims are supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted, and no new matter has been added. If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work

with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansen*, in view of Windows NT 4. As amended, Claim 1 recites a configuration management system, comprising:

"a configuration device configured to perform configuration management functions on objects within said configuration management system; and

a display device configured to display a representation of said objects in an Explorer style presentation having a tree display of objects in said configuration management system, and a content display that displays items selected in said tree display."

However, the combined references of *Hansen* and Windows NT 4 fail to teach or suggest similar subject matter.

As admitted in the outstanding official action, *Hansen* does not utilize a Windows 95 Explorer style presentation. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Hansen* does not lend itself to, nor does *Hansen* suggest, use of an Explorer Style interface. In *Hansen*, a GUI interface is disclosed that utilizes a drag and drop process to construct a network configuration map. However, the GUI presented by *Hansen* bears no relationship to an Explorer style interface. Note the only interface proffered by *Hansen* (see Figs. 4, 7, and 9) is a builder type interface that allows predetermined modules (104) to be selected and then

matched together in a workspace (102). Therefore, *Hansen* neither utilizes or suggests an Explorer style interface.

Turning now to Windows NT4, Applicant admits that an Explorer style interface is disclosed. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Explorer style interface is adapted specifically for file management and other functions of the operating system in which it is found. Applicant respectfully notes that the combination of the Explorer style interface and the functions of a configuration management system are not known or disclosed in the prior art. Such a combination capitalizes on a known base of knowledge to allow users to quickly adapt to the configuration management functions as noted in Applicant's specification. Accordingly, since no suggestion is made to include Explorer style GUI into a configuration management system, in *Hansen*, and Windows NT4 provides no suggestion of other uses except for file management of the NT4 operating system, Applicant respectfully submits that it would therefore not be obvious to combine *Hansen* and NT4 in a manner that teaches the claimed invention.

Furthermore, even if *Hansen* and NT4 are combined, no indications are provided as to how *Hansen* would utilize the teachings of NT 4. *Hansen* is directed toward building a network configuration by pointing and clicking on predetermined icons representing network devices. Explorer of NT 4 is directed toward management of files in the NT 4 operating system. However, no suggestion is made by either *Hansen* or NT4 to substitute file representations with configuration management

components as in the claimed invention ("to display a representation of said objects in an Explorer style presentation ..."). Accordingly, even if Hansen and NT4 are combined, the present invention will not result because Explorer NT 4 represents files and their management, while Hansen represents network devices and their interconnections with no suggestion as to how these would be combined.

Applicant's disclosure is a blueprint for establishing an Explorer style interface in a configuration management system. Absent such disclosure, no indication of how to make and/or use the present invention is provided. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Claim 1 is not obvious in view of Hansen and NT 4 because the combined references fail to teach or suggest the claimed subject matter, and That Claim 1 is therefore patentable. Applicant also respectfully submits that each of independent claims 25, 49, and 73 each contain patentably distinguishing limitations similar to those found in Claim 1, and that those claims, along with dependent Claims 2-24, 26-48, 50-72, and 64-87, are, therefore, also submitted as being patentable.

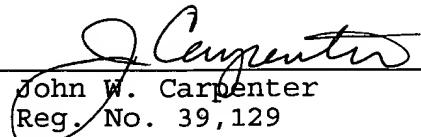
Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in this case and it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 4, 2000

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